

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 OIC-02 IO-13 /076 W
-----071023 111523Z /64

O R 111254Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8428
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08674

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, USNATO, EEC
SUBJECT: NATO MINISTERIAL: SENIOR LEVEL MEETING ON
BERLIN AND GERMANY

REFS: (A) STATE 113263 (NOTAL)
(B) 77 USNATO 12312 (NOTAL)
(C) 77 BONN 20063 (NOTAL)

1. THE BONN GROUP DISCUSSED THE AGENDA AT MEETINGS ON
MAY 8 AND 10. THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO ANY OF THE
ITEMS THE DEPARTMENT SUGGESTED IN REF A. BASED ON
THOSE DISCUSSIONS, WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON
PARAGRAPH 2 OF REF A (WE DID NOT INFORM THE BONN GROUP
OF PARAGRAPH 1, PENDING THE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMATION).
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2. NAC BRIEFING: SINCE THE BONN GROUP CHAIRMANSHIP
ROTATES WEEKLY, WE ASSUME THAT PRIOR PRACTICE (REFS
B AND C) WILL BE FOLLOWED AND THAT USNATO AS REPRESENTA-
TIVE OF THE COUNTRY HOSTING THE DINNER WILL PROVIDE THE
NAC BRIEFING.

3. ANNOTATED AGENDA: THERE WAS RESISTANCE BY THE FRENCH, SUPPORTED BY THE BRITISH TO THE SUGGESTION FOR AN ANNOTATED AGENDA. THE FRENCH REP (RICHARD) SAID THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN COOL TO THE IDEA IN THE PAST AND THAT, IN VIEW OF THE NECESSITY TO OBTAIN APPROVAL BY CAPITALS ON SEVERAL PAPERS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND PERHAPS IMPOSSIBLE IN THE TIME REMAINING TO HAVE CAPITALS APPROVE IN ADDITION AN AGENDA WHICH OUTLINED THE FACTS AND DEFINED THE ISSUES UNDER EACH ITEM. RICHARD SUGGESTED THAT EACH REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SENIOR LEVEL MEETING RELY ON HIS NATIONAL BRIEFING. IN VIEW OF THE FRENCH AND UK POSITIONS, WE AGREED TO INQUIRE WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT REGARDS AN ANNOTATED AGENDA AS ESSENTIAL.

4. AGREED PAPERS: THE BONN GROUP EXPECTS TO PREPARE AGREED PAPERS FOR THE NATO COMMUNIQUE, ASSESSMENT AND BERLIN VIABILITY STUDY AND, AS DESCRIBED MORE FULLY IN THE NEXT PARAGRAPH, PERHAPS BERLIN AND THE EC.

5. BERLIN'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE EC: THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT ON A FULL BERLIN/EC STUDY PRIOR TO THE QUADRIPARTITE DINNER. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN THE PARTY MOST INTERESTED IN THE STUDY AND RICHARD INFORMED US SOME MONTHS AGO THAT HE HAD DRAFTED A NEW PAPER WHICH HE HAD SUBMITTED TO THE QUAI FOR APPROVAL AND SUBSEQUENT CONFIDENTIAL

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INTRODUCTION IN THE BONN GROUP. THIS APPROVAL HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) DISTRIBUTED A PROPOSED FRG DRAFT IN THE FEBRUARY 21 BONN GROUP MEETING, A COPY OF WHICH WAS POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT AT THAT TIME. WE ARE POUCHING TO EUR/CE, USBER AND USEEC AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE FRG PAPER, WHICH THE UK EMBASSY HAS JUST GIVEN US.

6. AT THE MAY 10 BONN GROUP MEETING, VON BRAUNMUEHL (WHO HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY PRESSED FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE FRG DRAFT) EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE ANNOYANCE THAT THE OTHERS HAD NOT CONSIDERED HIS DRAFT IN DETAIL. THE UK REP (EYERS) AND THE US REP POINTED OUT THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN DONE BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY PROMISED THE FRENCH CONTRIBUTION AND, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE FRG AND FRENCH PAPERS ARE EXPECTED TO REPRESENT DIVERGENT POINTS OF VIEW, LITTLE COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED TOWARD MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF A COMMON VIEW BY CONSIDERING ONLY ONE OF THE TWO. VON BRAUNMUEHL, WHO HAD AGREED TO DRAFT A PROGRESS REPORT ON EC/BERLIN, SAID THAT UNLESS THE FRENCH PAPER IS RECEIVED BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DRAFT A

PROGRESS REPORT OF MUCH SUBSTANCE. HE RESERVED HIS

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POSITION AS TO WHETHER THE FRG WILL AGREE THAT THE
PROGRESS REPORT WILL BE AN AGREED PAPER.

7. VON BRAUNMUEHL SUGGESTED THAT AN EIGHTH ITEM BE
ADDED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED AGENDA: ALLIED
RELATIONS WITH THE GDR, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,
THE QUESTION OF CONSULAR CONVENTIONS. IN VIEW OF
PARAGRAPH 2(D)(8) OF REF A, OF WHICH WE HAD NOT
INFORMED THE BONN GROUP, WE SAID WE ASSUMED THIS WOULD
BE AGREEABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

8. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT PROPOSE THIS AS A SEPARATE AGENDA
ITEM, AND HAVE NOT RAISED IT IN THE BONN GROUP, THE
EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT THE US REP AT THE SENIOR LEVEL
MEETING MIGHT RAISE AT SOME POINT DURING THE COURSE OF
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THE DISCUSSION OF THE ASSESSMENT ON BERLIN IN THE
CONTEXT OF EAST/WEST RELATIONS THE GENERAL QUESTION OF
REPLIES TO SOVIET PROTESTS. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS
AWARE, THE BONN GROUP SPENDS A GREAT DEAL OF ITS TIME
DRAFTING AND REDRAFTING, IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGES BY
CAPITALS, REPLIES TO SOVIET PROTESTS. THE QUAI AND FCO
ARE PARTICULARLY DILIGENT IN SUGGESTING WHAT OFTEN
APPEAR TO US TO BE RELATIVELY MINOR CHANGES, WITH THE
RESULT THAT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME WHICH COULD BE BETTER
SPENT ON OTHER MATTERS IS CONSUMED AND REPLIES TO
SOVIET DEMARCHES ARE DELAYED. AS HIBBERT COMMENTED AT
THE DECEMBER 1977 SENIOR LEVEL MEETING DURING CONSIDERA-
TION OF THE BERLIN/EC STUDY, THERE IS THE DANGER OF THE
IDEAL DRIVING OUT THE GOOD.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON THE
FOREGOING.

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